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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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High lights of this week's summary include: Farm labor recruiting, production of quality cotton, effectiveness of cattle grub control campaign, and pasture improvement.

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IOWA

June 10, 1943

Farm labor.— Members of State extension staff not only recruiting farm labor but being recruited. So effective was campaign that Ames Chamber of Commerce signed up State extension staff members for part-time farm work.

At suggestion of Director Bliss, Governor issued special proclamation calling for farm labor recruitment campaign in every county in State during 2 weeks ending June 10. Each county conducted its own campaign with cooperation from OCD, USES, other governmental agencies, and civic organizations. Final tabulation of actual numbers recruited not yet made, but campaign generally successful. Press and radio gave strong support.

Survey of labor requirements shows Iowa needs average of 5 married and 15 single farm hands in each county. Greatest seasonal need will be in last 2 weeks of July when well over 20,000 workers will be wanted, compared with 8,000 needed last 2 weeks of June, and about 6,600 from August 15 to September 15.

Progress reports indicate that county farm labor committees have been set up in 76 of the 100 counties, with average of 7 local committees to a county. In 21 counties farm labor field assistants are employed.

Food preservation.— Program for State includes urging all women, both urban and rural, to can or preserve in some way as much as possible of family's fruit and vegetable supply. To obtain maximum food preservation, Extension now holding average of 15 canning and freezing demonstrations in every county; as many as 40 in some large counties. Will be followed by drying, brining, and vegetable storage demonstrations in August and September. State food preservation committee appointed.

Victory Gardens.— Campaign for summer gardens to start June 15, with emphasis on summer plantings and garden insect control. New pamphlet, "Plant Summer Gardens," will be distributed to 150,000 urban and rural families; major appeal to urban gardeners. Second publication on vegetable storage being printed in edition of 250,000.

Cattle grub control.- As result of Extension's winter grub control campaign there will be fewer heel flies this summer to run gains off cattle, reduce milk production, and cause extensive damage to leather. Definite reports are in from one-third of counties on treatment of 21,551 head of cattle with recommended rotenone-sulfur mixture. Cooperating agencies distributed 5,165 pounds of rotenone dust for grub control. 4-H Clubs had major role in giving treatments, 952 members taking part throughout State. Demonstrations given at State fairs, dairy herd-improvement associations, and cattle feeders' banquets. Control demonstrations involving 500 head of cattle set up by Extension in cooperation with three Iowa packing houses.

PUERTO RICO

May 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Made survey of 4-H boys and older youth to find out which ones were willing to go to States to work on farms.

Food production.- Continuing intensive campaign for increased food production, including Victory Gardens, Extension agents serving on local boards for food production emergency project of insular Department of Agriculture.

Sugar program will bring increase of 40,000 acres in food crops over 1942.

During month, 202 food-production demonstrations were started.

Home demonstration work.- Sectional food-production meetings held for all home demonstration agents; women leaders also attended. Held 32 demonstrations in food preparation.

Women agents teaching soap making because of scarcity. Home demonstration club members made 196 pounds.

TEXAS

June 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Two-day State conference held at college to receive recommendations for most efficient administration of Farm Labor Act. Two agents from each district took part in discussions with 24 district agents and headquarters staff and executives. After conference, two groups, including director, went into field and conducted six successive 2-day bi-district meetings. Recommendations of State conference were offered as suggestions to be adapted locally by agents in working out their own methods of procedure to fit county conditions.

Cotton improvement.- All cotton-improvement work directed toward production of quality cotton for wartime use. Producers urged to plant varieties and strains that will give quality of lint specified for manufacture of textiles for armed forces. Acreage planted to these cottons shows substantial increase over 1942. Organized cotton-improvement groups that have facilities for keeping lint and seed pure at gins have planted every available bushel of registered seed and thousands of bushels of certified seed. This makes possible marketing of lint in lots of several bales and assures supply of pure seed for 1944.

Victory Gardens.- Throughout State, Victory Gardens have reached point of quantity food production. Vegetables now ready are those planted on large scale to meet year-round family needs. Largest planting of white potatoes in history of Texas home gardens is yielding 1 to 10 bushels per garden. If crop can be stored successfully, out-of-State shipments should not be needed this year. Large-scale tomato planting were made to provide daily supply and surplus for canning. In south Texas housewives using pressure cookers, open-kettle methods, and community equipment for canning tomatoes and green beans. Large increase in plantings of green corn and black-eyed peas; harvesting and processing under way. Timely rainfall in sweetpotato section enabled growers to expand plantings from vine cuttings. In many localities harvesting of early white potatoes was succeeded by planting of sweetpotatoes from vines. Human effort and favorable weather are bringing all-time high in vegetable food production in Texas.

Rodent control.- Preliminary rat control work started in May to protect health of employees at two shipyards and aviation gasoline refinery on Gulf Coast. Stored building material in shipyards provided ideal haven for rats. At refinery at Port Arthur it was feared that foreign ships might bring in diseased rats. Antirrat campaign was successful at these plants.

Farm and home equipment.- Extension agricultural engineers met with county agents of four districts to discuss making and use of home-made farm and home equipment, and farm machinery repair. Models were made of home-made drying equipment for fruits and vegetables; also plan for home-made battery brooders for chickens because of shortage of commercial ones. Agent submitted suggestions for cattle trap to simplify round-up of cattle on ranches having large brushy pastures, during shortage of cowboys. Drawing of this plan has been made available; also drawings for peanut scratchers and lumber windmill tower.

Some agents report cooperation with machinery and oil companies in meetings on care and repair of farm machinery.

Taylor County agent working on utilization of sewage from Army camp for irrigation of farm crops.

Field crops.- Importance of harvesting winter legume seed emphasized at meetings and through press and radio. Cold weather caused much winter-killing, especially of common and Willamette vetch. Farmers bought over 2 million pounds of winter legume seed, including sweetclover, from AAA in fall of 1942 and unrecorded amount from dealers. Carry-over of about 3 million pounds will be particularly valuable next fall in view of reported shortage, especially of vetch seed, in northwest.

Poultry.- Educational program directed toward producing more poultry meat and eggs through better brooding, ranging, and laying-house practices. Emphasis placed on rearing pullets and ranging layers on ground free from viable parasite eggs; housing pullets early in clean houses with deep litter, enough feed, water, space, light, nests, ventilation, grit, and oystershell; better utilization of material sources of vitamins A and D, and riboflavin found in sunlight and green pasture; frequent and careful culling of unprofitable birds.

Pasture improvement.- In 21 Smith County communities 28 farm unit demonstrations are designated as special tests of TVA calcium metaphosphate, with application of 50 pounds of P_2O_5 per acre to vetch and winter peas instead of usual 20 pounds. These tests developed from cooperation of Tyler Experiment Station, Extension, and SCS in planning crop rotation with metaphosphate and muriate of potash, and for pasture, potash and lime where conditions warrant.

Home demonstration objectives.- Leading wartime activities of Texas home demonstration club members include: Increased production of gardens, poultry, eggs, and milk; better local distribution of farm food surpluses; more efficient utilization of canning equipment; adaptation to increased amount of field and livestock work; helping Red Cross; assisting ration boards; explaining point values to buyers of groceries; sending books, games, and other articles to military hospitals; acting as air raid wardens; and erecting observation posts.

Work clothing.- Emphasis given to safe clothing for women in war work, especially those working around machinery. Promoting use of garments having small pockets, close-fitting trouser legs with cuff or strap at ankle, and long sleeves. Most of these trousered garments are lightweight denim, costing less than \$1.

Negro activities.- Five training meetings held to give Negro county extension workers technical training in home food production, food preservation and storage, nutrition, marketing, swine management, and report making; also guidance in how to inspire farm families to make effort to meet local and national food needs. At these meetings Negro agents reviewed swine production problems, including most efficient use of protein feed supplements and latest treatments recommended for internal and external parasites.

Negro farmers making greater effort to care for swine and raise more for home consumption and surplus for markets; planting more feedstuffs; constructing better shelters; putting more land into pasture. Total of 300 Negro farmers and 4-H Club boys took part in 83 demonstrations where 2,284 swine were treated for mange, lice, worms, and cholera.

Negro adults and club boys in Fort Bend County recently completed feeding of 30 hogs for market less than 6 months old and averaging 193 pounds; sale netted total profit of \$334.43.

In effort to produce 800,000 chicks in 1943, urban and rural Negro families of Tarrant County pooled capital and labor, constructed 50 lamp-heated brooders, and bought 9 tons of feed cooperatively. Through April, 80,000 chicks were reported to have been brooded.

Negro home demonstration club members help to take sugar applications; learn and teach ways to make sugar go farther in cooking and canning. Of 11,080 members in State, 9,637 have enrolled as Victory Demonstrators in Extension's streamlined wartime program; result is marked increase in food production.